

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

With regard to the claim objections, claims 3 and 10 have been amended to recite a combination. No such amendment is required by claim 5, which does not recite a screw for the screw grommet.

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese reference is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 recites that the slits extend axially of the screw grommet along only a portion of the axial length of the cavity. As later acknowledged in the rejection of claims 3 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Japanese reference does not show slits along only a portion of the axial length of the cavity. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 is clearly faulty.

Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claim 6 has been cancelled, and the dependency of claims 7 and 9 has been changed accordingly.

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, that the axial slits are formed in positions corresponding to the center of all sides of the periphery of the rectangular cross-section of

the flange and the shank and are spaced from the
protrusions. Claim 5 now recites that the shank has a
plurality of protrusions projecting from outer peripheral
surfaces of the shank at positions spaced from the flange
and from the slits that centrally divide all sides of the
rectangular cross-section of the flange and the shank.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rely upon Kojima
for slits that extend along only a portion of the length of
the cavity. However, it is apparent from Fig. 5 of Kojima
that the slits 10 and 10a merely outline the protrusions 6
so that the protrusions are capable of hinging about the
dents 9. This is quite different from the arrangement of
Applicant's invention as now claimed.

Furthermore, in Kojima, the slits do not extend
through the flange. It is not apparent how the slit
arrangement shown in Fig. 5 of Kojima (providing hinging of
the protrusions) could possibly use slits extending through
the flange 1.

Finally, there is no suggestion whatsoever in the
prior art of modifying the Japanese reference in view of
Kojima or Kojima in view of the Japanese reference, since
the slit arrangements of the references are totally

different and are incapable of being combined in any reasonable manner.

This application is clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

By: Nelson H. Shapiro
Nelson H. Shapiro
Reg. No. 17,095

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